



3560.003363.

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
:)
SHOJI NISHIDA, ET AL.)
:)
Application No. 10/676,094)
:)
Filed: October 2, 2003)
:)
For: LIQUID PHASE GROWTH)
METHOD FOR SILICON)
CRYSTAL, MANUFACTURING)
METHOD FOR SOLAR CELL)
AND LIQUID PHASE GROWTH)
APPARATUS FOR SILICON)
CRYSTAL) Date: May 25, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

(1) DE 22-38205

(2) JP 11-292693

(3) JP 58-89874

(4) U.S. Patent No. 6,391,108

(5) U.S. Patent No. 4,571,448

Document (1) is discussed in the specification at page 3, document (2) at pages 3 and 4, and document (3) at page 2. The Examiner is directed to these portions of


the specification which are believed to provide an explanation of relevance of these documents to the subject application.

In addition, English-language abstracts for cited German and Japanese documents (1) to (3) are enclosed. In addition, documents (4) and (5) are believed to be U.S. Counterpart patents of corresponding documents (2) and (3) respectively. The U.S. counterpart patents and English-language abstracts are also believed to provide the required explanation of relevance for cited German and Japanese documents (1) to (3).

Inasmuch as the subject application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

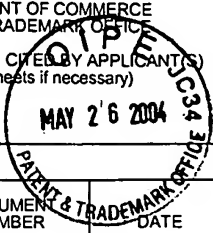
Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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FORM.PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)				ATTY DOCKET NO. 03560.003363.		APPLICATION NO. 10/676,094	
				APPLICANT SHOJI NISHIDA, ET AL.		GROUP N.Y.A.	
				FILING DATE October 2, 2003			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		6,391,108	05/21/02	Nishida, et al.	117	77	
		4,571,448	02/18/86	Barnett	136	259	
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	✓	22-38205	02/14/74	DE			Abstract
	✓	11-292693	10/26/99	Japan			Abstract
	✓	58-89874	05/28/83	Japan			Abstract
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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